

Fall 2004


Evergreen
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Fearey's First Edition

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Why build a downtown arena? This is a question being asked a lot these days. I am in favor of the arena proposal and want to take this opportunity to provide a few facts and figures that may help you in making your decision. So, why build a downtown arena:

Access to County Residents: According to census figures, Sedgwick County has 452,869 residents. Of these, 223,469 people, or 49.3% live within a 5 mile radius of Douglas and Topeka Streets. In contract, 4% or 18,486 County residents live within 5 miles of the Kansas Coliseum. These numbers show that an arena Downtown is far more accessible.

Proven Economic Results: In the 30 years since the Kansas Coliseum was built, the facility has been unable to leverage or attract any significant private sector investment other than the Wichita Greyhound Park. Any expectation that more public investment in this facility would generate private sector investment is not reasonable. On the other hand, public investment in Downtown has a proven track record of generating new private sector investment. In fact, private investment has consistently outpaced public investment in the center city. As this return on public investment creates more revenues for local government through increasing property taxes, sales taxes and other benefits, a Downtown arena offers a greater return on public funds and will generate more private investment.

A need to keep Wichita's Inner City Strong: When people move out of any city's inner area, the tax base of the entire community is eroded. New arterial streets have to be built, intersections have to be widened, water lines have to be oversized for future demand, etc. These are expensive propositions paid for by the city's entire tax base. At the same time, older established neighborhoods become more rundown as people move to the new "upscale" areas instead of investing their dollars in existing housing stock. Providing activity and a sense of place for people helps revitalize these areas and the core, Downtown area. A strong inner city also means a strong tax base for the school district that serves the people living there.

How can I be sure the tax won't be extended? The ballot question is very specific about when the tax is to be abolished. The Kansas Department of Revenue, which collects the sales tax, MUST stop collecting the funds at the time to comply with state law.

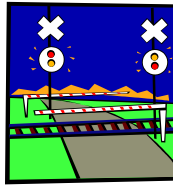
For additional information regarding the arena please visit www.voteyea.com. Most importantly, please go to the polls on Tuesday, November 2 to make your vote count in this and all the other races!

We're on the Web
Come Visit Us
www.wichita.gov

Regards,

Sharon Fearey

29th Street Railroad Crossings



Now that the I-135 Interchange at 29th Street is open again, more people are noticing the poor state of the RR tracks at 29th and Broadway. These tracks have been a problem for years and are continually getting worse.

City staff has gone out again to check on the status of the tracks. They report that there are a few spots where the timber crossing material is missing and creates a “pothole” type of situation. Most of the roller-coaster ride is related to the elevation difference between the crossings and the pavement headers where the timber crossing material has been worn away by traffic.

The problem with the tracks and the city repairing them is twofold. First, the tracks are RR property and they have to be involved with the repairs. Second, they are sometimes not very willing to work with the city. City staff, however, is in contact with the railroads and is working toward a remedy of these track conditions.

On a more positive note, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe RR has tentatively scheduled the reconstruction of railroad crossings on 37th Street North, east of Broadway. During the repair, the railroad will remove the existing track structure and install new ballast, ties, rails and crossing material.

Sidewalk Cafes

Look for more sidewalk cafes coming to the city in the future. In the past, any outdoor area of a premise licensed the sale and consumption of alcohol had to be accessible only from an interior entrance. At the June 8, 2004, City Council meeting this structural requirement was eliminated. The proposal affords an expanded number of food and beverage service operators to open sidewalk cafes in conjunction with their regular businesses.



Knight Foundation assists Neighborhood City Halls

At the request of Lou Heldman, donor advisor to the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, a \$15,325 grant was awarded to the four neighborhood city halls for **SUMMER FUN** for children aged 2-14 years.

Wichita Independent Neighborhoods (WIN) assisted in applying for this grant and in many of the planned events. With these funds, children were able to learn to swim, purchase swimsuits, have two free swimming days at Aley and Evergreen park pools, receive free t-shirts, learn how to cook, explore journalism, roller-skate and receive a trip to Joyland.

There were 745 youth and adults that enjoyed the free swim days. A total of 78 youth took swim lessons with 9 Evergreen children completing the four full sessions and are now swimming like fish. The new swimmers parents are very proud and grateful for this opportunity for their children.

Treats were also provided. Two radio stations KYQQ 106.5 Hispanic Radio and FM 93.9 were present and provided free prizes along with playing games.

The kids in the neighborhoods really enjoyed their summer.

“Caregivers Lifeline: Link Up to Resources” Reaches Across the County

The Central Plains Area Agency on Aging and public libraries from throughout Sedgwick County have joined forces to help address the complicated and varied issues that caregivers face and promote resources for caregivers this fall, including National Caregiver Month (November). Through programs, displays, and bibliographies, the project partners will help caregivers become better informed not only about ways to deliver medical and physical assistance, but also ways to take care of themselves physically and emotionally so they can continue to provide the best support for those they assist.

The following libraries are partnering with the Central Plains Area Agency on Aging for programs, displays, and/or bibliographies: Derby Public Library, Goddard Public Library, Haysville Community Library, Mulvane Public Library, Park City Community Public Library and the Wichita Public Library.

Communicating Effectively with Health Care Professionals: For Caregivers

This free workshop for family caregivers can help you to make the most out of each doctor visit, to be a respected member of your loved one's health care team, and to get what you both need from the health care system. Presented by the Central Plains Area Agency on Aging. Registration required.

Thursday, Oct. 7, 2:00—5:00 p.m., Rockwell Branch Library (Wichita Public Library), 5939 E. 9th, Wichita, (316) 688-9361 (Registration required: call (316) 688-9361 beginning Thursday, Sept. 23)

Saturday, Oct. 23, 2:00—5:00 p.m., Westlink Branch Library (Wichita Public Library), 8515 Bekemeyer, Wichita, (316) 337-9456 (Registration required: call (316) 337-9456 beginning Friday, Oct. 8.)

Tuesday, Dec. 7, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., St. Michael's Catholic Church, 545 E. Main St., Mulvane. Offsite program for the Mulvane Public Library. (Registration required; call the Mulvane Public Library at (316) 777-1211 beginning Tuesday, Nov. 23).

What Every Caregiver Should Know

There are several important resources for caregivers, and this talk will explain how different agencies can assist caregivers and other topics about which caregivers need to be knowledgeable. Presented by the Sedgwick County Department on Aging and Central Plains Area Agency on Aging.

Tuesday, Nov. 9, 7:00 p.m., Haysville Community Library, 130 W Grand, Haysville, (316) 524-5242

Monday, Nov. 15, 7:00 p.m., Park City Community Public Library, 1530 E. 61st St. N., Park City, (316) 744-6318

Thursday, Nov. 18, 10:00 a.m., St. Michael's Catholic Church, 545 E. Main St., Mulvane. Offsite program for the Mulvane Public Library, (316) 777-1211.

Wichita Police Department **Announces a Historic Promotion to the Rank of Captain**



Chief Norman Williams is pleased to announce the promotion of Lieutenant Felecia A. Norris to the rank of Captain. Captain Norris, along with 14 other candidates participated in a Captains Assessment process, which began in May 2004, and concluded in early July 2004. The candidates went through an extensive process and Captain Norris finished number one in the assessment process, which is reflective of her commitment and dedication to preparing for any situation.

Today Captain Norris will become the first African-American female to be promoted to the rank of Captain in the history of the Wichita Police Department. This is truly a significant accomplishment for an organization that is rich in tradition and history.

Captain Norris began her career with the Wichita Police Department on October 5, 1981. During her 22-year career with the Police Department her promotions and assignments have provided her with a wide array of experience including:

- July 8, 1989, promoted to Detective and worked in the following sections:
 - Bunko/Larceny
 - Domestic Violence
 - Exploited and Missing Children Unit
- Sex Crimes
 - March 22, 1997, promoted to the rank of Sergeant and assigned to the following:
 - Patrol South Bureau 3rd Shift
 - Internal Affairs
 - Patrol North Bureau 3rd Shift
- March 17, 2001, promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and served in the following assignments:
 - Patrol South Bureau
 - Training Academy
- Captain Norris' educational background includes:
 - Master's Degree, Criminal Justice, Wichita State University
 - Bachelor's Degree, Criminal Justice, Wichita State University
- Selected training:
 - Masters Certificate in Executive Management
 - Human Resource Management
 - Leadership Skills
 - Weapons of Mass Destruction

In addition, Captain Norris is an Adjunct Professor at Wichita State University and is involved with various mentoring and tutoring programs throughout the city.

Captain Norris' Department awards include the Bronze Wreath of Meritorious Service, Certificate of Commendations, Commendatory Performance Reports, Distinguished Service, and the 10 and 15-year safe driving award.

The following is a timeline of accomplishments achieved by former *City Manager Chris Cherches* during his service to the Wichita community



- October 7, 1985 - Chris Cherches first day at City Hall.
- 1986 - Long range planning task force developed and WI/SE economic development partnership is established.
- 1988 - Redevelopment program for 21st Street corridor begins and includes several projects for improvements such as street improvements, a bank at 21st & Grove, senior center, Piatt Manor Housing Project and a new Police sub-station and library.
- 1989 - K-96 (previously known as the Northeast Expressway) construction begins
- Spring 1990 - Contamination was discovered in the downtown area that posed risk to public health and environment.
- Fall 1990 - Over 500 people attend a town hall meeting to hear the problem known as the Gilbert & Mosley site. At this event, the City Manager unveils a possible solution through a 5-point program that included the development a unique tax-increment financing district to avoid SuperFund intervention. Today the Gilbert & Mosley Project is considered to be one of the most innovative public-private partnerships ever created to address a complex environmental problem of groundwater contamination. The City of Wichita received the prestigious Ford Foundation's Innovations in State and Local Government Award from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government for its forward-thinking leadership and its will to create revolutionary practices to accomplish community goals.
- 1991 - Kellogg construction begins between K-42 & Kellogg
- 1991 - Old Town development (a public-private partnership) begins and includes street improvements to Mosley and Rock Island from Douglas to First Street. Public funding was set up through a tax increment district (only the second one in the State of Kansas). In addition, an innovative parking district was established that created free public parking. The first phase included the construction of five parking lots.
- 1992 - Kellogg "flyover" completed downtown; begins between Sycamore & Emporia Streets
- 1993 - Received "All America City" Award for the second time
- 1993 - The Neighborhood Initiative was established to address crime and involve neighborhoods in residential issues. Community Policing, an award winning concept, was developed from this forward-thinking planning.
- August 1993 - Phase two of Old Town began and included converting a former warehouse into the Farm & Art Market and Plaza area, additional street and parking improvements. Incremental development to Old Town continued through the 90s that includes an area of about 33 acres extending from Douglas on the south to Second Street on the north and from Washington on the east to the elevated railroad tracks on the west.
- 1993 - Kellogg construction between K-42 & Kellogg completed
- 1993 - K-96 completed (note that a portion of the 1-cent sales tax was used for this highway)
- Spring 1994 - Kellogg construction begins between Kellogg & Dugan (west Kellogg)
- July 1994 - State Office Building opens
- Spring 1996 - Hyatt construction begins
- Fall 1996 - Kellogg & Dugan completed
- September 1996 - Ice Sports Wichita opens, complete with the only Olympic-sized skating rink in the Midwest.
- April 1997 - City of Wichita buys the Eaton Block at a Sheriff's Auction
- Spring 1997 - Kellogg & Oliver construction begins
- September 1997 - Hyatt Regency Wichita opens
- November 17, 1997 - Cessna Training Center opens on 21st Street (President Bill Clinton attends the event)
- 1998 - Hotel at Old Town completed where City and private developers salvaged the historic Keen Kutter building and converted it into a first-class hotel.
- 1999 - Received "All America City " Award for the third time
- September 21, 1999 - Transit Operations Center Opens
- April 1, 2000 - Exploration Place Opens
- 2000 - Kellogg & Oliver construction completed
- December 31, 2000 - Eaton Place Redevelopment Completed
- May 2000 - Establishment of District Advisory Board to promote citizen participation in city government.
- September 29, 2001 - Neighborhood City Halls Opened (all four opened the same time)
- October 2001 - Douglas Streetscape Project Completed

City and Humane Society Enter into Memorandum of Understanding

Currently, both the City Animal Shelter and the Kansas Humane Society have inadequate facilities to accommodate the increased animal populations and the growing needs for animal care and sheltering. Since both organizations intend to construct new and expanded facilities to accommodate the needs of the community, a joint partnership to co-locate those facilities and coordinate programs and services would offer efficiencies and operational benefits to both organizations.

The Memorandum of Understanding will formally establish a policy directive between the two groups to initiate steps to study, identify and negotiate various planning and project considerations aimed at reaching an agreement to enter into a partnership for the construction and operation of a new facility.

While by no means a “done deal,” the memorandum sets the ball rolling for a public/private non-profit partnership that would greatly benefit area residents and their furry friends. The document will define the general parameters of the project and the steps both parties must take to plan, develop and implement the envisioned facilities.



Welcome the children back to school.

Donate time as a mentor.

Encourage their future



Police Property and Evidence Relocation

Police Property and Evidence has been located in city-owned buildings for several years including eight years at its current location, 740 W. Second Street. They have outgrown this facility and are currently storing property and evidence at five different facilities at various locations throughout the city. Expansion of the current facility is not possible because it is land-locked.

The Police Department has a budget of \$675,000 to remodel and move into a new facility. At the July 13, 2004 meeting, the City Council approved Property and Evidence moving into the old Rounds & Porter building located directly to the west of City Hall. This building will meet the current needs of the department and will have room to expand should it be needed in the future. It is also conveniently located in the center city and next to city hall and the court system. The Police Department will add approximately \$30,000 to its budget for additional operating costs of the bigger facility.

Revision of Animal Maintenance Code

Revision of this code, which has been in process for sometime now, was adopted by the City Council on September 14. Some of the more significant changes to the code include the following:

- A permit and fee will be required for anyone keeping more than three fowl, two rabbits, two dogs, two cats, or one sheep, goat, horse, cow, ratite, or more than two domestic animals of another kind.
- No more than the following listed animals, nor more than three different kinds of domestic animals shall be maintained on any one premise in a residential classification; two nanny goats, twelve rabbits, twelve fowl other than pigeons, twenty five pigeons, two horses or other equines, one cow two sheep, two ratites, four dogs, four cats or two domestic animals of other kinds. This applies only to mature animals that are fully weaned.
- It is unlawful for any person to keep or maintain roosters, guinea cocks, peacocks, or other birds that exhibit loud calls.
- Domestic animal shelters used for horses or similar large domestic animals on residential properties shall not be less than two hundred feet from any adjacent dwelling and not less than ten feet from any property line.
- The Health Officer will evaluate properties for which valid residential classification permits exist on the effective date of this section, and will issue waivers of distance and setback requirements where such waivers do not adversely affect public health and safety, pose a threat to the environment, or constitute a nuisance to adjacent households. Individuals aggrieved by any decision of the Health Officer relative to waivers may appeal to the City Council Office within ten days notice of such decision.



For additional information about the code, please call the Environmental Health Department or visit the city's web site.

- February 5, 2002 - signed a development agreement for a public-private partnership to expand Old Town to the north by 7 acres. This \$25 million dollar project includes a 500-car parking garage and anchors the Old Town Warren Theatre and City Arts.
- February 28, 2002 - AirTran Airways arrive at Mid-Continent, bringing affordable airfare to Wichita
- March 2002 - Improvements to Lawrence Dumont Stadium completed
- June 2002 - Kellogg & Tyler/Maize Road begins (scheduled completion November 2004)
- September 10, 2002 - signed a development agreement for a public-private partnership to develop 27 acres of Wichita's downtown. This 100 million dollar project, called WaterWalk features water amenities in a mixed-use development. Tenants are expected to begin moving into the development in 2007.
- October 16, 2002 - Water Center Officially opens
- January 2003 - Kellogg & Woodlawn construction begins (scheduled completion in November 2005)
- November 7, 2003 - City Manager Chris Cherches resigns. His last day was Dec. 31, 2003.

Chris made Wichita a great place to call home and has a left a vacant spot in many hearts and homes.

Customer Service Above and Beyond

Coffee with Sharon

The breakfast's occurring on the 4th Saturday of the month with Council Member Sharon Fearey continue to be very popular with District VI residents and others who come to hear the topic of the month. Much discussion takes place on many City issues.

Come join Sharon at the Morris Family Restaurant located at the corner of 9th and West street at 9 a.m.

Homeownership Corner

Here are some easy home maintenance tasks to complete as the fall season approaches. Fall is a great time to fertilize your lawn and the best time to improve the appearance of your lawn by seeding those bare patches that might have appeared over the summer.

Purchase grass seed at your local lawn and garden or hardware store. Keep the newly seeded areas damp by lightly watering each day. Be sure to keep leaves and other lawn debris away from these newly seeded areas.

Replace your old furnace filter this fall. This is a very inexpensive maintenance task, but it is the best thing you can do to make sure that your furnace continues to operate properly this winter.

It is also a good idea to have a licensed heating and air conditioning technician check and clean your furnace.

Remove garden hoses from the outside water faucets to prevent costly plumbing repairs and potential flooding when it is cold enough to freeze water.



Midtown Neighborhood Plan Adopted by City Council

In January of this year, following a two-year process, the Midtown community completed the Midtown Neighborhood Plan. The plan boundaries are generally South of 18th Street, West of the Union Pacific/BNSF RR Tracks, North of Murdock Street, and East of the Little Arkansas River. Extensive input has been received from the community during the past 24 months through community meetings, small group meetings and information published in *The Midtowner*, the neighborhood newsletter. The mission of the plan is: to enhance the appearance, safety and quality of life in Midtown to make it an attractive and desirable place to live, work and play for the benefit of all residents, businesses, visitors and property owners.

The plan contains the following nine goals:

1. Build a sense of community and responsibility.
2. Maintain and improve the character of the neighborhood.
3. Encourage attractive, affordable and well-maintained housing.
4. Preserve and Enhance Historically-Designated Homes and Districts
5. Encourage a safe and peaceful neighborhood.
6. Improve park and recreational space experiences and encourage the use of parks.
7. Eliminate storm water drainage problems.
8. Eliminate speeding traffic, enhance pedestrian and vehicular safety and circulation, and encourage walking.
9. Add and maintain neighborhood shops and businesses.

The plan also outlines policies, land use recommendations and specific studies that together seek to maintain the residential character of the neighborhood, provide for the development of a linear greenway to connect three neighborhood schools, and guide redevelopment along the Santa Fe corridor and around the schools. No zoning proposal has been made, and rezoning is not a part of this plan.

The neighborhood plan, as an amendment to the Wichita-Sedgwick County Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the City Council in May.